

## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens 570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100 Los Angeles, California 90065 Phone (323) 221-9944

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To**: The Governing Board

FROM: Jose T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: July 12, 2007

SUBJECT: Agenda Item V(f): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design services in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay.

<u>Staff Recommendation</u>: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design services in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay in the amount of \$850,000.

Background: At the July 9, 2007 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) meeting, the Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the MRCA for Project Planning and Design services in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay. The grant would fund activities directly related to the acquisition, preservation, protection and restoration of land, water and other natural resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for eligible projects located in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and the coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay. The MRCA will provide direct services related to the expeditious acquisition or improvement of remaining open space parcels and/or sites with open areas or removable improvements for reclamation.

A major component of this grant scope is to bring forth to the Conservancy a primary set of upper Los Angeles River watershed projects to be partially funded by the Conservancy's allocation of Proposition 84 funding. The development of that project set, and their resulting scopes, will involve extensive public input to greatly address the paucity of the Conservancy's Workprogram in the portions of the watershed that were added to the Conservancy's jurisdiction with the passage of Proposition 50 and carried forth in Proposition 84. That project set will include both acquisition and improvement projects in the array of upper watershed geographic quadrants.